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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 803

Press  
Mis.

Dated

28-6-1937

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,*  
*23th June 1870.*

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No. 100. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer in charge of 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 8th June 1870, No. 1074:—

In reply to Government Order, No. 14, dated 4th May 1870, I have the honour to report that we can supply the Fort ditch, Madras, with sea water to a small extent by gravitation alone, because, at the present time, the mean level of the sea is '6 of a foot, or seven inches below the level of the water in the ditch. The rise and fall of tide at full moon is between two feet and ten inches and three feet, and at springs it is said to be three-and-a-half feet. I propose to authorize Captain Hunter to open the flagstaff sluice and to admit sea water at next spring tide. I have no doubt, also, that a certain amount of sea water finds its way into the Fort ditches by percolation through the soil.

2. I have carefully gone over the Fort with the Executive Engineer, and I have had a connected series of the bed and water levels taken of the Cooum river, the Fort ditch, and the sea, the whole also having been checked with Colonel DeHaviland's bench-mark of mean sea level in the ditch.

3. There are three tunnels from the Fort ditch, one connecting the Cooum river at the Wallajah bridge with the ditch near the Wallajah ravelin; a second from the north gate ditch to the main Black Town tunnel which discharges into the sea to the north of the Fort; and the third communicating from the ditch near the flagstaff bastion with the sea opposite the east gate.

4. It has occasionally been the custom to discharge a portion of the Cooum river when coming down in high fresh through the tunnel at the Wallajah bridge into the Fort ditch, and thence into the sea through the flagstaff tunnel. At present all communication between the Cooum and Fort water is cut off, and the level in the former stands at '69 feet, or eight inches below the latter, or one inch below mean sea level.

5. It has been proposed to me to open the Wallajah sluice and to allow the Fort ditch water to flow into the Cooum river, and so endeavour to abate in some degree the nuisance now caused from the dreadful odours given off from its bed; but the effect of such a measure would be extremely trifling and confined, because the Fort water is not clean in itself, and is only eight inches higher in level, whilst the area of water in the Fort ditches is not a quarter of the area comprised in the Cooum bed between the Wallajah and Government-House bridges. An effort might be made, simultaneously with the cutting of the bar at spring tides, to allow the sea water to flow through the Fort ditch into the Cooum river by means of the two tunnels above mentioned, but I am afraid the duration of the flow would be short, and the effect trifling.

6. I beg to send the levels with this report for your inspection.

Transferred to the Public Department with reference to the orders in that Department, dated 23rd April 1870, No. 497.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,  
9th June 1870.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,  
Secy. to Govt., P. W. D.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,*  
*28th June 1870.*

No. 101. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1870, No. 803.

From the foregoing report it appears that at present all communication between the Cooum river and Fort has been cut off, and that the Superintending Engineer has taken the necessary steps for admitting sea water into the ditch at spring tide.

(True Extract.)

*Chief Secretary.*

To the Public Works Department, with the sketch returned.  
,, Sanitary Commissioner.

No. 1074 Supg Engr Office to Secy  
Madras 8<sup>th</sup> June 1870.  
From.

Lieut Colonel J. Peam R.E.  
Superintending Engineer  
in charge of 4<sup>th</sup> Division  
To. Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.  
Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Enclosure Sir. In reply to Government  
one plan - Order No 14 dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 1870, I  
have the honor to report that we can  
supply the Fort ditch Madras with  
sea water to a small extent by  
gravitation alone, because at the  
present time the mean level of the  
sea is. 6 of a foot or 7 inches below  
the level of the water in the ditch.  
The rise and fall of tide at full  
moon is between 2' 10" and 3 feet  
and at Springs it is said to be 3  
and a half feet. I propose to  
authorize Captain Hunter to open  
the

Boat. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

The PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.  
Secy, Secy, Secy.

Dated June, 28<sup>th</sup>.

Recd.

G. O., 28<sup>th</sup> June 1870, No. 803.

JUNE.  
Nos. 100-101.

The Superintending Engineer in charge of 4<sup>th</sup>  
Division, states that all communication between the  
Cooum river and the Fort trenches has been cut off,  
and that the necessary steps have been taken for  
admitting sea water into the trenches at spring  
tide.

the flag Staff sluice and to admit Sea water at next spring tide - I have no doubt also that a certain amount of Sea water finds its way into the Fort ditches by percolation through the Soil -

2. I have carefully gone over the Fort with the Executive Engineer and I have had a connected series of the bed and water levels taken of the Coorn River, the Fort ditch, and the Sea, the whole also having been checked with Colonel De Havilland's bench mark of mean Sea level in the ditch -

3. There are three tunnels from the Fort ditch, one connecting the Coorn River at the Wallajah Bridge with the ditch near the Wallajah Cavalry, a second from the North Gate ditch to the main Black Town Tunnel which discharges into the

the Sea to the north of the Fort, and the third communicating from the ditch near the flag Staff Bastion with the Sea opposite the east gate -

4. It has occasionally been the custom to discharge a portion of the Coorn River when coming down in high fresh through the tunnel at the Wallajah Bridge into the Fort ditch, and thence into the Sea through the flag Staff tunnel - At present all communication between the Coorn and Fort water is cut off, and the level in the former stands at 6' 9" or eight inches below the latter, or one inch below mean Sea level -

5. It has been proposed to me to open the Wallajah Sluice and to allow the Fort ditch water to flow into the Coorn River, and so endeavour to abate in some degree the nuisance now caused from the dreadful odours given off from its bed, but the

23 April 1870 No 161-162 Public Works Department

From  
The Deputy Engineer in charge  
4th Division

To  
The Secretary to Govt  
Public Works

Transferred to  
the Public Works  
Department with reference  
to the order in that  
Department dated

23rd April 1870, No 497

1/2  
9 June 1870  
21/3/70  
21/3/70

Dated 8th  
June 1870  
No 161-162

Ch. 10/4  
No 931.

Report on the possibility  
of constructing the water  
of the Coorn River  
from the Fort ditch  
and keeping the ditch  
supplied with salt  
water.  
The Fort ditch  
is a small stream  
which flows into the  
Coorn River.

the effect of such a measure would be extremely trifling and confined, because the Fort water is not clean in itself, and is only eight inches higher in level, whilst the area of water in the Fort ditches is not a quarter of the area comprised in the Coorn bed between the Wallajah and Government House Bridges. An effort might be made, simultaneously with the cutting of the bar at Spring tides, to allow the sea water to flow through the Fort ditch into the Coorn River by means of the two tunnels above mentioned, but I am afraid the duration of the flow would be short and the effect trifling.

I beg to send the levels with this report for your inspection.

I have the honor to be  
Sir  
Your most obedient servant

Heur  
Lieut Col R. B.  
Supg Engr in ch. of 4th Div.

No 803 of 25th June 1870.

From the foregoing report it appears that the at present all communication between the Coorn River & Fort has been cut off, & that the Superintending Engineer has taken the necessary steps for admitting sea water into the ditch at Spring tide.

Govt. of Madras.

Public

To the Public Works  
Department.

Dated June 28

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 28<sup>th</sup> June 1870, No. 803

Nos. 100-101.

Sea water into the  
trenches at spring  
tide.

The Supy Engr in charge  
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